

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 6-14, and 17-20 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12, and have canceled claims 4, 5, 15, and 16.

These changes do not introduce any new matter.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Gassho et al.* (“*Gassho*”) (US 2002/0060806 A1) (as noted above, Applicants have canceled claims 4, 5, 15, and 16). As will be explained in more detail below, the *Gassho* reference does not disclose each and every feature of independent claims 1 and 12, as amended herein.

Considering first independent claim 1, Applicants have amended claim 1 to define a print job management apparatus including, among other features, a redundant data retrieval module, an image data deletion module, and a job status setting module. The print job management apparatus reduces the storage requirements of print jobs having image data. In particular, the redundant data retrieval module retrieves redundant image data among image data of print jobs stored in the job storage module, the image data deletion module leaves at least one of the retrieved redundant image data while deleting the other of the retrieved redundant image data, and the job status setting module shares the remaining image data among redundant image data with print jobs in which the image data was deleted. In light of the changes made to claim 1, Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 5.

The *Gassho* reference discloses a print job management apparatus that enables a single print job to be used for both proof printing and main printing. The *Gassho* reference discloses that, in response to input of a print job having the proof attribute, the process newly creates a daughter job from the input print job, i.e., the mother job, and proof printing is executed with the mother job (the daughter job is a duplicate of the input print job, i.e., the

mother job, but does not have the proof attribute). Thereafter, in response to a main printing instruction given to the mother job, the mother job is discarded and the main printing is executed with the daughter job.

Relative to the subject matter defined in present claim 1, the *Gassho* reference does not disclose the functionality corresponding to that of the redundant data retrieval module, the image data deletion module, or the job status setting module. As such, for at least the foregoing reasons, the *Gassho* reference does not disclose (or suggest) each and every feature of present claim 1.

Turning to independent claim 12, this claim defines a print job management method that manages print jobs. Applicants have amended claim 12 to specify method operations that correspond to the functionality of the print job management apparatus defined in present claim 1. In light of the changes made to claim 12, Applicants have canceled claims 15 and 16.

As the method operations specified in present claim 12 correspond to the functionality of the print job management apparatus defined in present claim 1, the arguments set forth above with regard to present claim 1 also apply to present claim 12.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, independent claims 1 and 12, as amended herein, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Gassho*. Claims 2, 3, and 6-11, each of which ultimately depends from claim 1, and claims 13, 14, and 17-20, each of which ultimately depends from claim 12, are likewise patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Gassho* for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding the applicable independent claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1-3, 6-14, and 17-20, as amended herein, and submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at **(408) 749-6902**. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ITECP014).

Respectfully submitted,  
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